

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IFAD, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

FIRST TWO DAYS

SUMMARY - JANUARY 28, FIRST DAY, WAS SPENT IN ORGANIZING CONFERENCE--
ESTABLISHING ITSELF AS COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, SLIGHTLY ENLARGING CONTACT
GROUP, AND HOLDING GROUP MEETINGS ON ORGANIZATION AND SETTING OF
POSITIONS. FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS FOR FAO ROLE WITH IFAD
WERE NOT PRESSED; THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSENSUS AMONG THE THREE GROUPS

OF COUNTRIES TO WATER DOWN HIS PROPOSALS CONSIDERABLY. OECD/DAC
GROUP MEETINGS JANUARY 27 AND 28 REACHED AGREEMENT THAT DESPITE DIF-
FERENCES, EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE. TO START WHERE PREVIOUS MEETING OF
INTERESTED COUNTRIES LEFT OFF, AND NOT REOPEN OLD ISSUES OR START
AFRESH. AT END OF SECOND DAY, THERE ARE STILL NO INDICATIONS OF THE
SIZE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OPEC COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO MAKE. THE
ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE DEALT WITH THUS FAR IS THE NEGOTIATION IN
WEIGHTED VOTING WHERE THE G-77 REMAINS ADAMANT ON THE POSITION OF
ONE-COUNTRY ONE-VOTE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. END SUMMARY

1. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH OPENED MEET-
ING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES AT 11:00 A.M. JANUARY 28, SPOKE BRIEFLY
AND READ UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE

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NECESSARY ACTION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD. NEW FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

EDOUARD SAOUMA WAS THEN INTRODUCED, AND SPOKE OF IMPROTANCE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN FAO AND IFAD, STRESSING CONVERGENCE OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPERTISE FAO COULD PROVIDE, BUT ADDING THAT HE WAS NOT SEEKING AUTHORITY OR POWER. SAOUMA INDICATED THAT ADG YRIART WOULD REPRESENT FAO IN CONSIDERING RELATIONS WITH IFAD. (COMMENT: SAOUMA DID NOT REFER TO PROPOSALS HE HAD MADE TO GROUP-77 AND OECD/DAC GROUP IN ROME TO AMEND DRAFT IFAD AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN FAO'S ROLE OR TO GIVE IFAD BORROWING AUTHORITY. WE UNDERSTAND GROUP-77 WILL INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS ONLY TO REFER TO FAO IN PREAMBLE AND IN ARTICLE 8, SECTION 2 CONCERNING IFAD RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

2. DR. HANNAH THEN ESTABLISHED GROUP AS COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, AND TURNED CHAIRMANSHIP OVER TO BOYAGBONA OF NIGERIA (VICE-CHAIRMEN MRS. BELLAVITA OF PANAMA, AND ALPEN OF AUSTRALIA.)

3. BOYAGBONA THEN PROPOSED TO RECONSTITUTE PREVIOUS 12-MEMBER CONTACT

GROUP (4 EACH FROM COUNTRIES OF CATEGORIES I, II, AND III), BUT REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME GROUP-77 (LED BY GUINEA AND LIBYA) COUNTRIES OPPOSED THIS, AND ASKED FOR SAME ENLARGEMENT OF THAT GROUP. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, CHAIR AGREED TO DELAY UNTIL AFTERNOON TO PERMIT GROUPS TO DECIDE THEIR VIEWS.

4. IN AFTERNOON, GROUP-77 SPOKESMAN PROPOSED ADDING ONE FROM EACH CATEGORY AND NOMINATED GUINEA FROM CATEGORY III AND LIBYA FROM CATEGORY II WITH A THIRD NEW MEMBER TO BE ROUND UP FOR CATEGORY I BY OECD/DAC GROUP. LATTER COUNTRIES INTERPOSED NO OBJECTION, AND LATER NOMINATED UNITED KINGDOM AS COMPROMISE BETWEEN SWEDISH NOMINEE OF NETHERLANDS AND U.S. NOMINEE OF JAPAN. LEGAL DRAFTING GROUP WAS ALSO ENLARGED, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ITS OPEN-ENDED COMPOSITION.

5. OECD/DAC GROUP IN MEETINGS AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 27, MORNING OF JANUARY 28, AND AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 28 REAFFIRMED ITS POSITION REGARDING: A 750 SDR LEVEL TO ENTER INTO FORCE, WEIGHTED VOTING, THIRD PARTY MONITORING OF DIRECT LENDING PROJECTS, OPPOSITION TO IFAD BORROWING AUTHORITY, AND IFAD RELATIONS WITH FAO, ALL IN ACCORD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH U.S. POLICY (THOUGH SOME DIFFERENCES WITH NORDIC GROUP ON THESE POINTS PERSIST.)

6. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE DEALT WITH BY THE CONTRACT GROUP ON JANUARY 29 WAS WEIGHTED VOTING ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE G-77 (WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF INDIA) HAS REPUDIATED THE COMPROMISE REACHED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS LAST OCTOBER AND IS INSISTING ON ONE-COUNTRY ONE-VOTE IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE OECD

GROUP IS REMAINING FAIRLY FIRM ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR EACH GROUP WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BUT STRAINS IN THIS UNITY ARE APPEARING.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF OPEC MONEY. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OPEC COUNTRIES WILL BE CHanneled

THROUGH THE NEW OPEC AID FUND. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING IS STRAINED AND THE G-77 APPEARS DOMINATED BY THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS. VOLPE

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